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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

CAUGHT BETWEEN
AN OCK
AND A HARD PLACE!



SPIDER IN THE MIDDLE



**PETER PARKER--YOU
ARE THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN!**



BILL MANTLO
SCRIPTER
AL HILGROM
PENCILER
JIM MOONEY
INKER
DIANA ALBERS
LETTERS
BOB SHARN
COLORS
TOM DEBALCO
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
OVERLORD



Y'KNOW, THE SUN'S JUST COMING UP, I'VE BEEN AWAKE STUDYING ALL NIGHT, AND...

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?!?

I SAID, MR. PARKER, THAT YOU ARE THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN--



--BECAUSE, IF YOU'RE NOT, A PATIENT OF MINE, AND A FRIEND OF YOURS, MAY BE IN VERY SERIOUS TROUBLE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT DEBRA WHITMAN, SON.

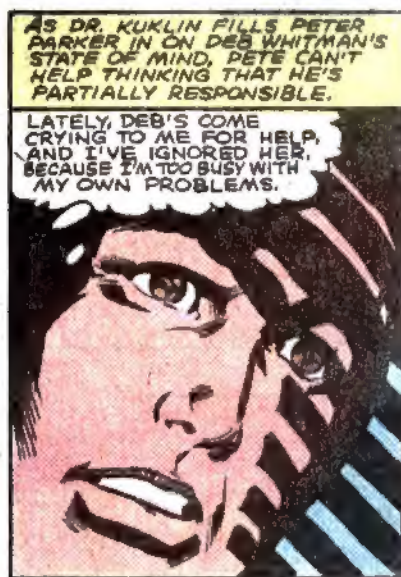
DEB'S IN TROUBLE? HOW? WHAT'S WRONG?!



LET ME EXPLAIN. MY NAME IS DR. BAILEY KUKLIN. I AM DEBRA'S PSYCHIATRIST. I'VE BEEN TREATING HER FOR SOME TIME.

YOU SEE, DEBRA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF REALITY/FANTASY CONFUSION.

IN LAYMAN'S TERMS, SHE'S SCHIZOPHRENIC.



AS DR. KUKLIN FILLS PETER PARKER IN ON DEB WHITMAN'S STATE OF MIND, PETE CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT HE'S PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE.

LATELY, DEB'S COME CRYING TO ME FOR HELP, AND I'VE IGNORED HER, BECAUSE I'M TOO BUSY WITH MY OWN PROBLEMS.



FOR SOME TIME NOW SHE'S HAD HER FANTASIES UNDER CONTROL. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, SHE FELL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH YOU, MR. PARKER--

--AND, FOR SOME REASON, DECIDED YOU WERE THE SUPER HERO CALLED SPIDER-MAN.

NOW, YOU AND I KNOW THAT YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT SPIDER-MAN...



... BUT DEBRA THINKS YOU ARE! THE THOUGHT OF YOU SWINGING INTO DANGERS IMAGINABLE AND UNIMAGINABLE--

--AND HER WORRY FOR YOUR SAFETY HAS EXACERBATED HER SCHIZOPHRENIA.



DOES DEB REALLY KNOW I'M SPIDER-MAN? OR IS SHE IMAGINING IT?

DOC, HOW CAN I HELP?

I'D LIKE TO TRY A RATHER UNORTHODOX FORM OF SHOCK THERAPY, PARKER.

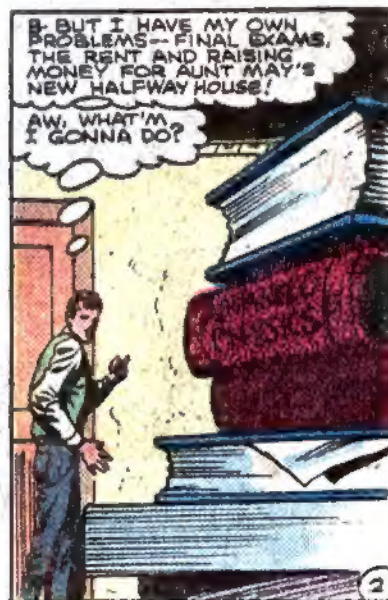
IF YOU WOULD PRETEND TO BE SPIDER-MAN, MAYBE WE CAN CONVINCE DEBRA OF THE ABSURDITY OF HER FANTASIES.



B-BUT... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

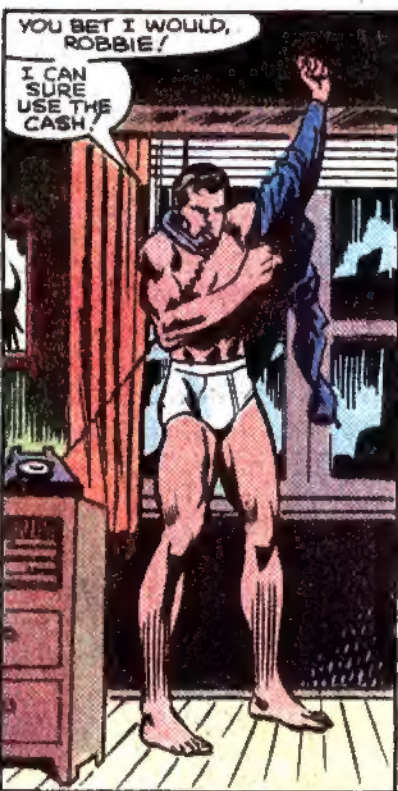
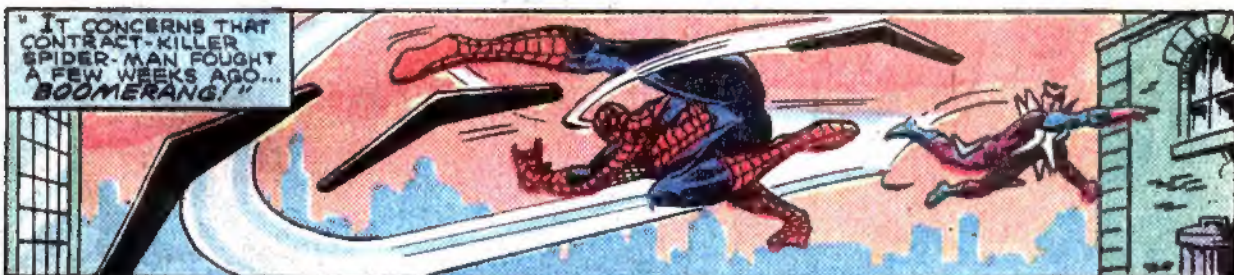
SOMETHING COULD GO WRONG AND I MIGHT REALLY GIVE AWAY MY SECRET IDENTITY!

I THOUGHT DEB WHITMAN WAS YOUR FRIEND, MR. PARKER. WELL, IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, CALL ME.



B-BUT I HAVE MY OWN PROBLEMS-- FINAL EXAMS, THE RENT AND RAISING MONEY FOR AUNT MAY'S NEW HALFWAY HOUSE!

AW, WHAT'M I GONNA DO?



DAYLIGHT BEGINS TO
CARESS THE CANYONS
OF MANHATTAN...



...BUT ELSEWHERE,
THERE ARE CERTAIN
TRANSACTIONS
WHICH MUST BE
CARRIED OUT IN
DARKNESS.



AH, MY FLOCK
ASSEMBLES!
YOU HAVE HEEDED
MY CALL!

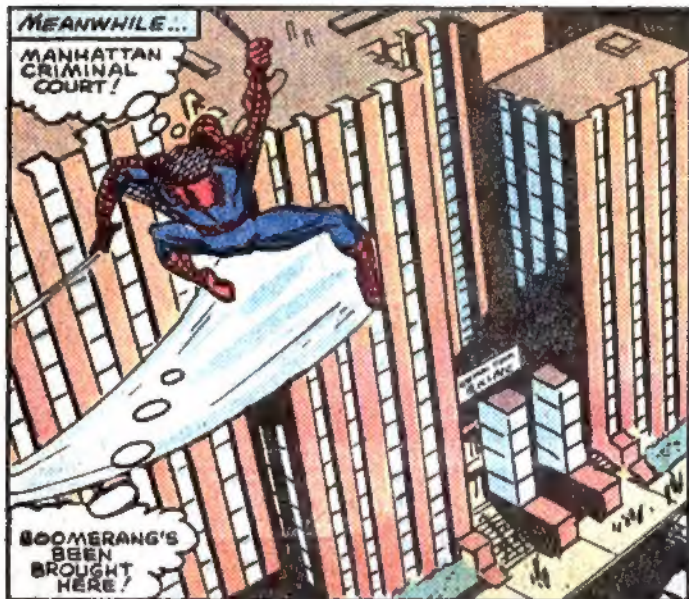
EXCELLENT! TODAY WE STAND
ON THE THRESHOLD OF IM-
MEASURABLE WEALTH!

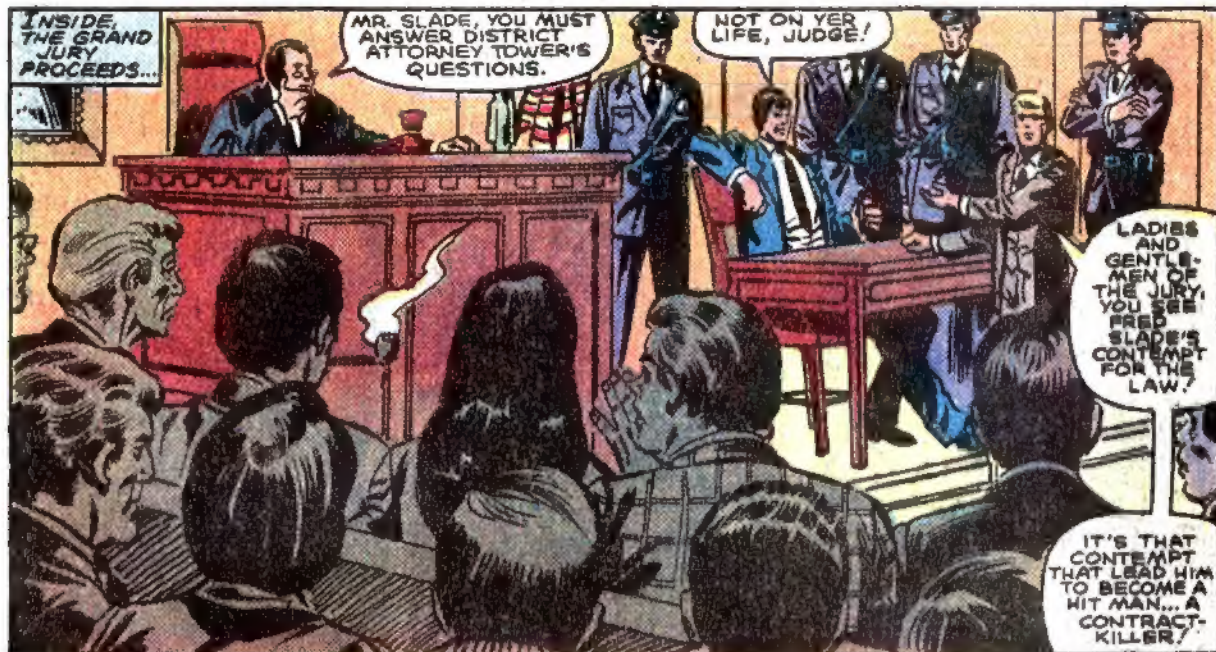


OBEY MY ORDERS! FOLLOW
MY PLAN TO THE LETTER,
AND WE'LL BE RICH BEYOND
DREAMS OF AVARICE!



BRING ME
BOOMERANGS!





INSIDE,
THE GRAND
JURY
PROCEEDS...

MR. SLADE, YOU MUST
ANSWER DISTRICT
ATTORNEY TOWER'S
QUESTIONS.

NOT ON YER
LIFE, JUDGE!

LADIES
AND
GENTLE-
MEN OF
THE JURY,
YOU SEE
FRED
SLADE'S
CONTEMPT
FOR THE
LAW?

IT'S THAT
CONTEMPT
THAT LEAD HIM
TO BECOME A
HIT MAN... A
CONTRACT-
KILLER!



IT AIN'T ME YOU'RE
AFTER, TOWER!

YOU WANT
THE GUY I WAS
WORKING FOR--AND
I AIN'T TALKING!



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TOWER, YOU HAVE
PRESENTED ENOUGH
EVIDENCE TO INDICT
THIS MAN FOR THE
MURDER OF AN
F. B. I. INFORMANT...



BOOMERANG ALSO
TRIED TO KILL SPIDER-
MAN, YOUR HONOR.

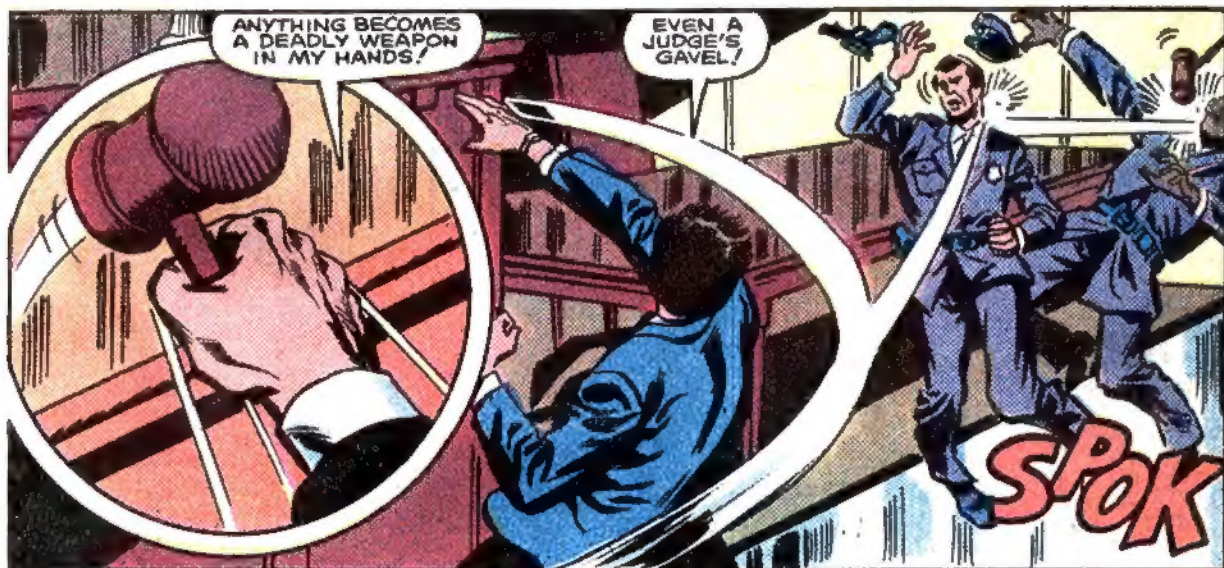
I BELIEVE
BOTH CRIMES
WERE TIED
TOGETHER BY
A NUCLEUS
OF COMMON
FACT--

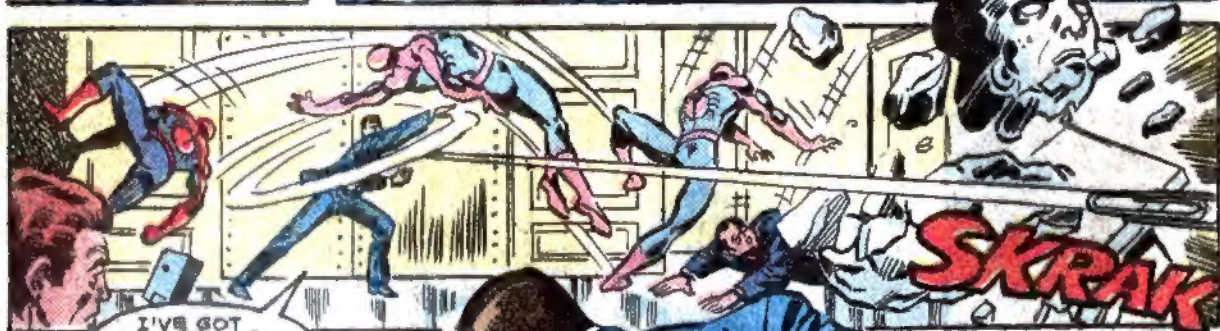
--AND THAT
BOTH WERE
ORDERED BY
ONE MAN... THE
KINGPIN OF CRIME!



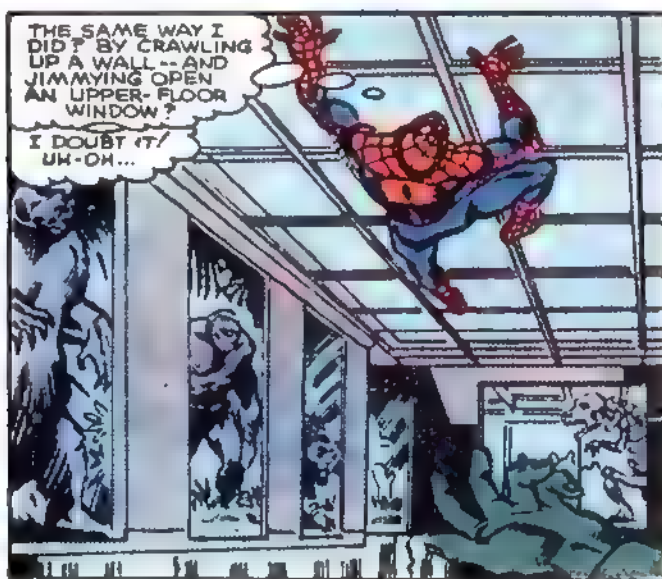
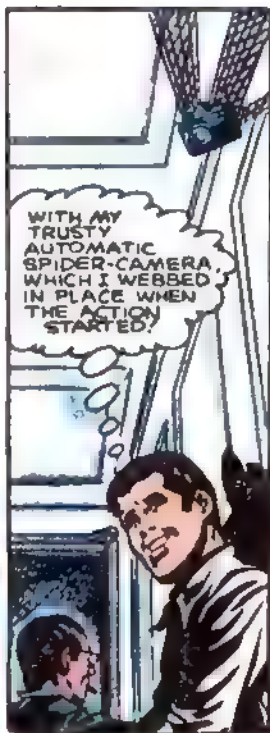
FORGET IT, TOWER--
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING
AGAINST THE KINGPIN!





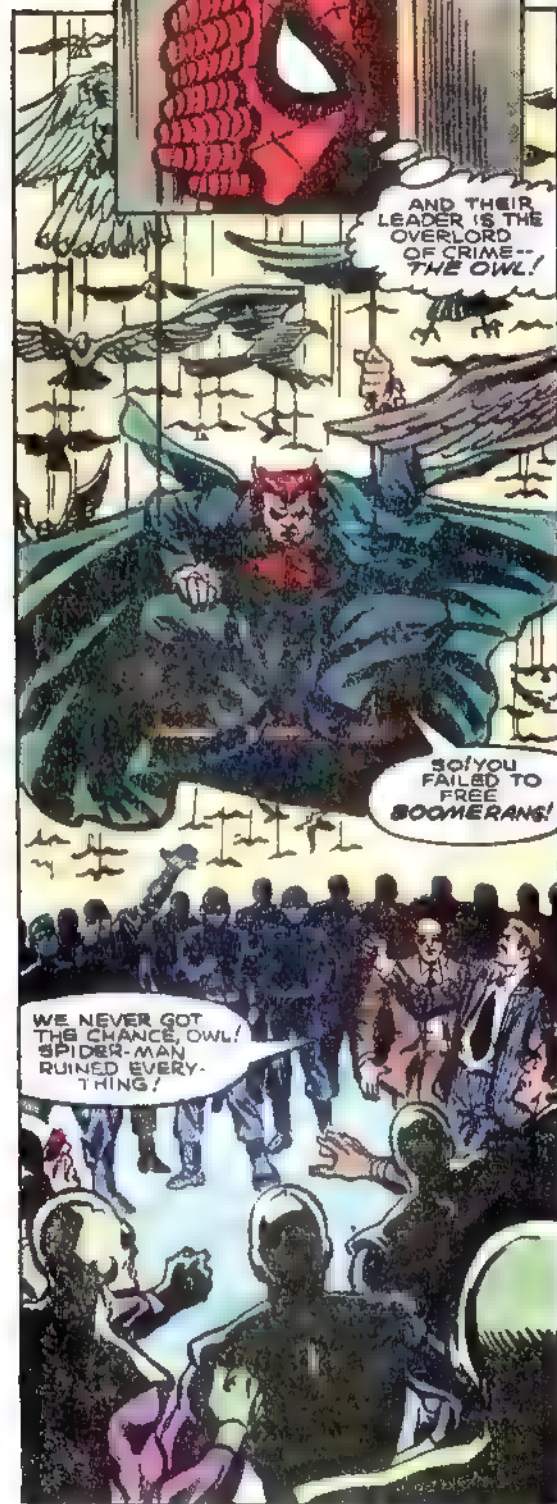








LOTS OF VOICES/ SOUNDS
LIKE THERE'S A MOB
ASSEMBLED IN THE
BIRD ROOM!

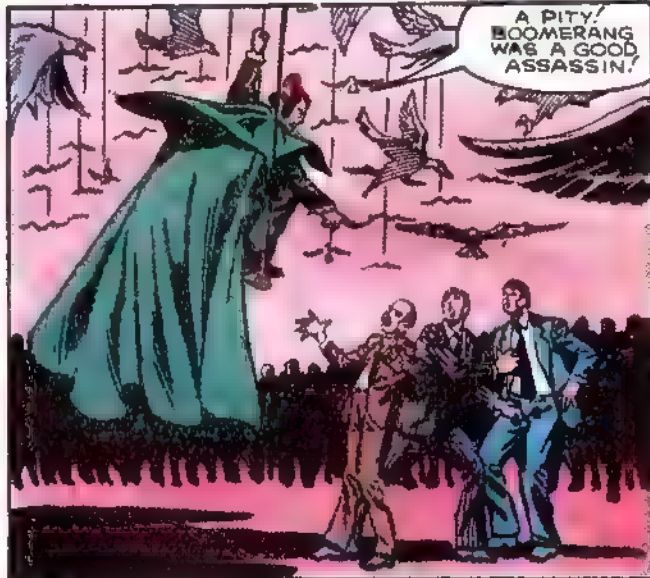


NOT A
MOB! A
FLOCK!

AND THEIR
LEADER IS THE
OVERLORD
OF CRIME--
THE OWL!

SO! YOU
FAILED TO
FREE
BOOMERANG!

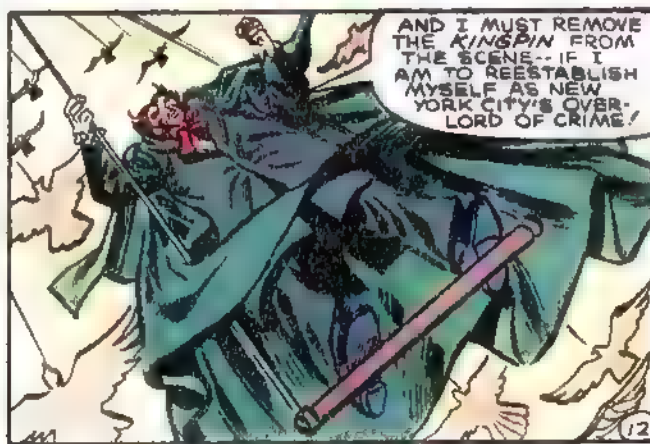
WE NEVER GOT
THE CHANCE, OWL!
SPIDER-MAN
RUINED EVERY-
THING!



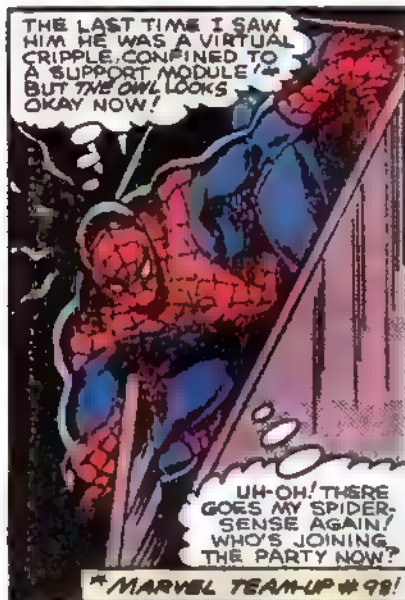
A PITY!
BOOMERANG
WAS A GOOD
ASSASSIN!

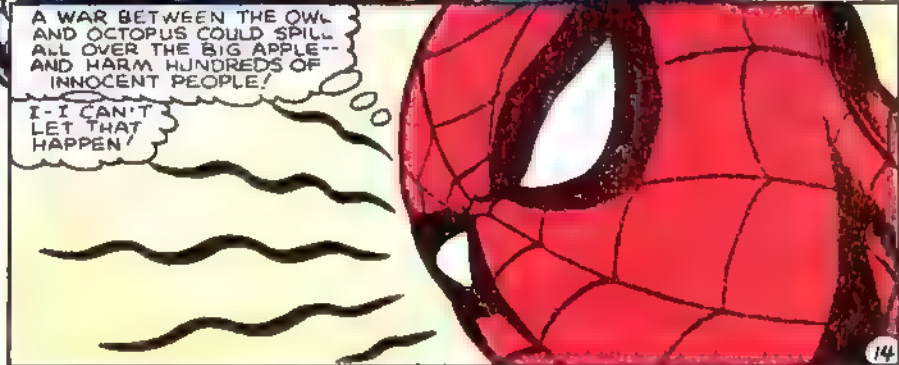
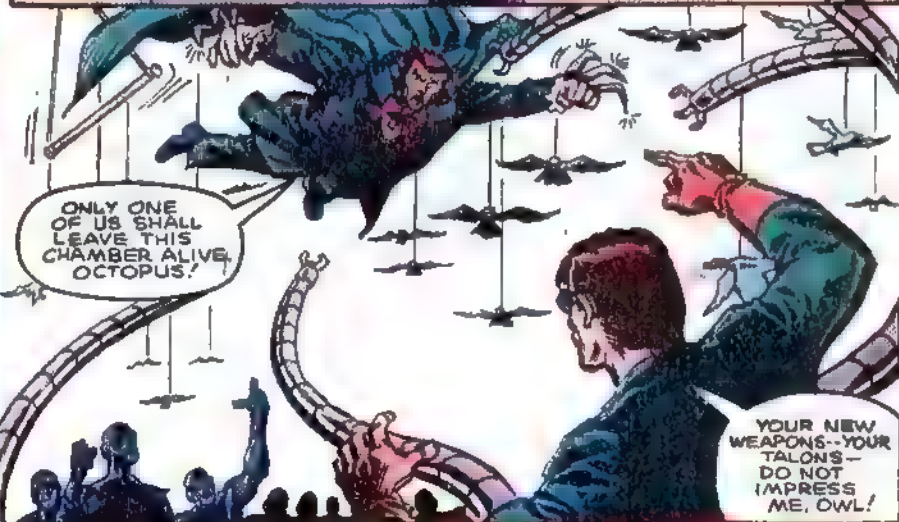
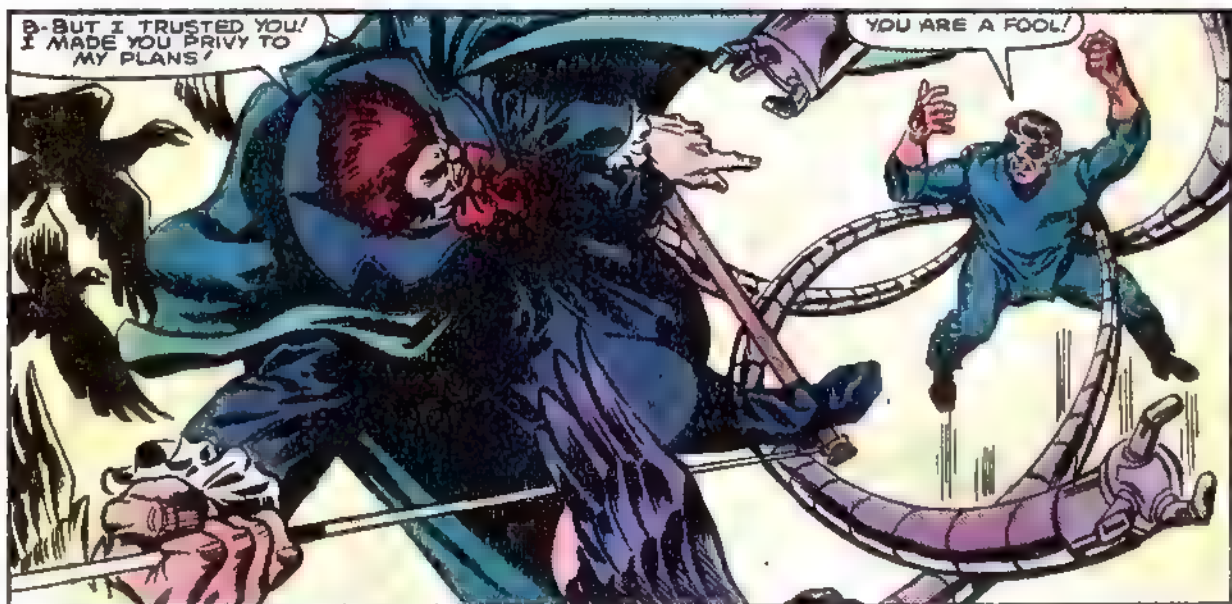


NOT AS GOOD AS HE
BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE,
PERHAPS-- BUT HE DID
HAVE AT LEAST SOME SMALL
KNOWLEDGE OF THE KINGPIN'S
OPERATION ..

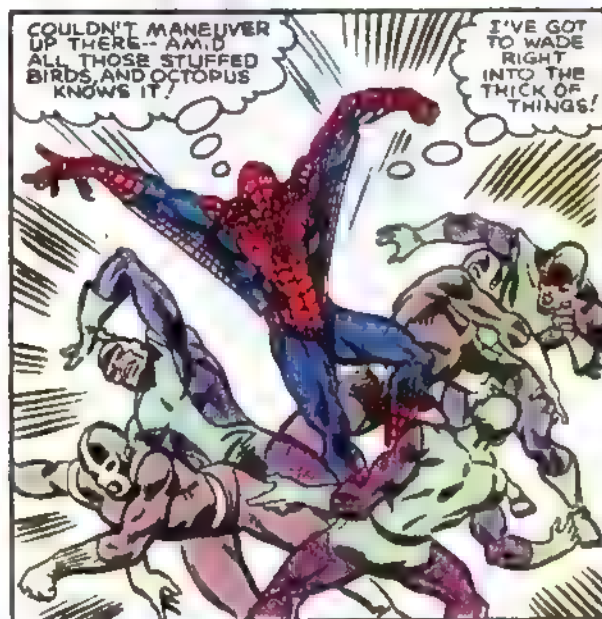


AND I MUST REMOVE
THE KINGPIN FROM
THE SCENE-- IF I
AM TO REESTABLISH
MYSELF AS NEW
YORK CITY'S OVER-
LORD OF CRIME!



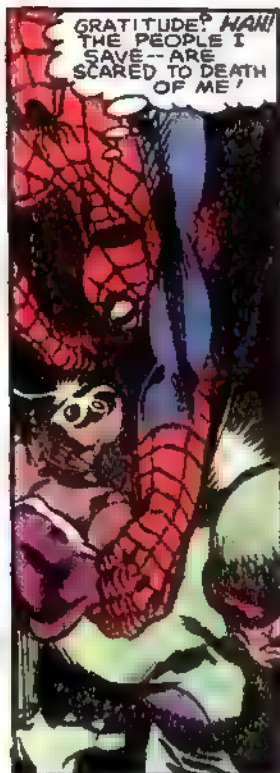








BUT THIS
LITTLE SPIDER
SHOULD HAVE
STAYED HOME!
WHY DO I
ALWAYS JUMP
INTO THESE
THINGS? WHAT
DO I WANT?



GRATITUDE? HAH!
THE PEOPLE I
SAVE--ARE
SCARED TO DEATH
OF ME!



FAME
AND
FORTUNE?

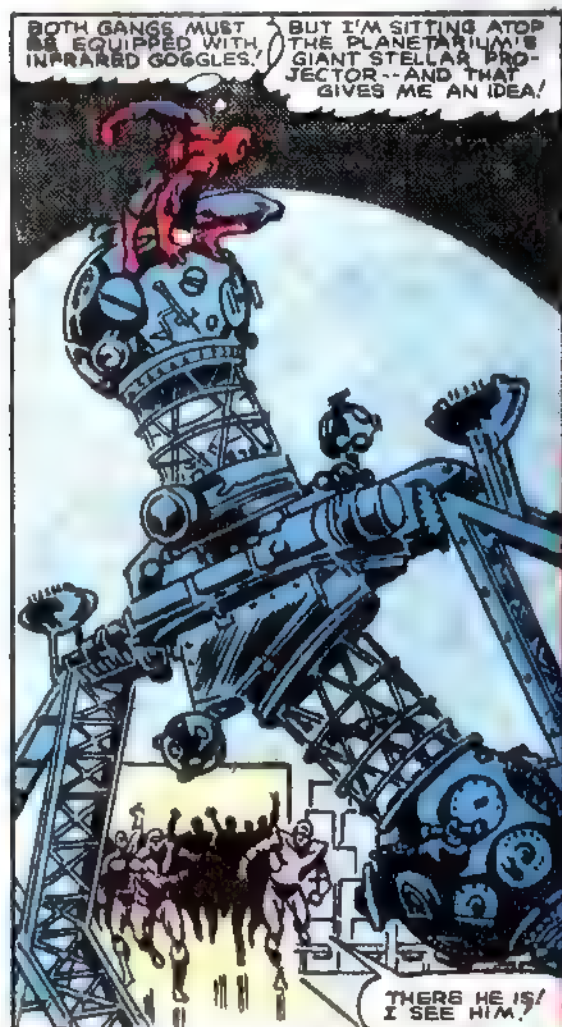
NOT IN
THIS
LIFE!

THERE
HE IS!



HAYDEN PLAN

SWELL!
I'D THOUGHT
I'D HAVE AN
ADVANTAGE
IN THESE DARK
CORRIDORS.
BUT THOSE
GOONS CAN
SEE ME!



BOTH GANGS MUST
BE EQUIPPED WITH
INFRARED GOGGLES.

BUT I'M SITTING ATOP
THE PLANETARIUM'S
GIANT STELLAR PRO-
JECTOR--AND THAT
GIVES ME AN IDEA!

THERE HE IS!
I SEE HIM!



NOW YOU SEE
ME, PAL--

KLUNK



--AND NOW,
YOU DON'T?



HOTCHA! THE PROJECTOR'S FLASHING STARS, PLANETS AND COMETS ALL OVER THE PLACE-- CONFUSING THE HECK OUT OF THE BAD GUYS!



WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE, I CAN GO AT 'EM WITH MY EYES CLOSED!



BUT THE HIRED HELP IS EASY--IT'S THEIR BOSSES I'VE GOTTA WORRY ABOUT!



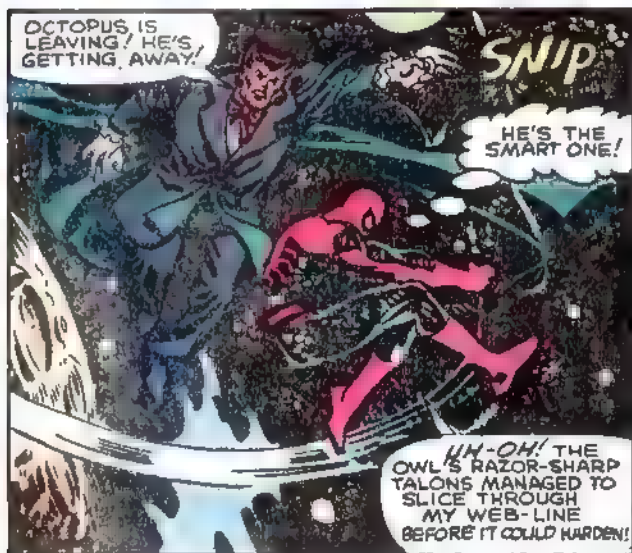
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, OWL? YOU WALK SO STIFFLY! WHY DO YOU SHUFFLE?

OCTOPUS MUST NEVER SUSPECT THE TRUTH--THAT MY LEGS ARE ALMOST TOTALLY USELESS--AND THAT I ONLY STAND WITH THE AID OF BRACES!



BUT MY ABILITY TO SOAR THE NIGHTWINDS MORE THAN OFFSETS MY HANDICAP!

I AM COMING FOR YOU, SPIDER-MAN!





HAVE TO HURRY IF I WANT TO CATCH UP TO OCTOPUS! CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE!



HE AND THE OWL ARE PLANNING SOMETHING BIG-- BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT!



THE OWL'S OBVIOUSLY AFRAID OLD FOUR-ARMS WILL BETRAY HIM-- AND WITH GOOD REASON!



UH-OH! THE OWL'S RIGHT BEHIND ME AND GAINING FAST --



--BUT HE WON'T FIND ME!

ACCURSED ARACHNID, WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?!!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10018

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Editor,

While PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN is usually enjoyable, issue 67 proved to be a standout. Two consecutive pages (4 & 5) of problems bombing poor Pete followed up by the Kingpin's new image of utter superiority, quickly followed by 3 more pages of PETER! This comic has gone through phases when Spider-man never removed his mask for the entire book. For any long-time Spider-man reader, one fight is just like another. The key to enjoying a Spidey story is the Peter Parker storyline. When Spidey took Bannion's camera from him, the reader remembered that Parker and Spider-man are the same person. Often, once the costume is donned, they talk and act completely different. Bill, stay with the book. The more of Peter's life you can bring out, the better the comic will be. A reconciliation with both Marcy and Debra should come about soon. Some of Pete's best stories were with Gwen when they were together.

Robert Loeffler
223 Cortland Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14223

The best is yet to come, Robert!

Dear Tom,

I stopped buying both Spidey mags on a regular basis about a year ago. After so many years I had gotten tired of the character. But I did happen to pick up a recent issue, otherwise I'd never be writing you.

The only reason that I purchased SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66 was the cover. I LOVED IT! I'm sure that it was just an experiment on your part, but hopefully reader reaction will be so positive that its like will be seen again. I especially liked the way you fit the CCA stamp in, and the fact that it was partially covered. By the way, nice plug for Epic.

The story itself was very good. Good enough to convince me to pick up #67. Again I was not disappointed. Bill Mantlo turned out great stories in each of the two issues. I also enjoyed Ed Hannigan's interior artwork. Especially in #67.

I don't know about the rest of Marveldom, but I for one would like to see Peter and Deb get together on a slightly more permanent basis. Maybe even marriage?

Well, keep it up and maybe, just maybe, I'll sign back on as a regular reader.

Craig A. Larson
280 Clearfield Dr.
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

Unfortunately, as this very issue clearly illustrates, marriage is not in the offing for Peter and Deb, Craig. But, who knows what the future will bring?

Dear Tom,

Now this was a remembrance of the past. SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #67 was as close to the old Lee-Ditko days as I've seen in some time, starting off with that Ditko-like cover by Ed Hannigan, and Al Milgrom.

The inside was pretty much like the old Spidey, too. I mean with all Pete's troubles, and the return of the Kingpin, well, this one was a blast.

Mark Waldman
9639 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

Mark, be advised that we proudly re-present those sensational Lee/Ditko classics each and every month in MARVEL TALES!

Dear Marvel,

Just as the cover-blurb would have had us believe, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #67 did, indeed, have it all. Bill Mantlo's script touched more bases than the players of the 1981 All-Star baseball game. The story opened with action, and only occasionally let up long enough to inject scenes of romance, introspection, mystery and suspense.

Boomerang was an excellent choice as this month's protagonist. He has become a much more exciting super-villain than he

was in his early appearances in TALES TO ASTONISH. Kingpin was, likewise, handled with style. Since his appearances in DAREDEVIL he has become one of my favorite Marvel baddies. However, I am puzzled as to how Kingpin was able to stop Boomerang's projectile in mid-flight. It seemed as if he just pursed his lips together and blew. (So what's more natural than a major underworld crime-boss who watches old Bogart movies?) Still, I question the apparent effortlessness with which the Kingpin was able to stop Boomerang's formidable weapons.

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Whoa! Hold it! Stop! There appears to be a failure of visual communication here, Wally. Kingpin did not, like the Big Bad Wolf, huff and puff and blow Boomerang's boomerang down. If you look closely at the art, you'll see that he merely (merely!) moved faster than Boomerang's projectile and caught it in mid-air! Now there's a crime-boss to turn Humphrey green with envy!

People,

There are three reasons that I write to the various comics: 1) A comic is good, 2) It stinks, or 3) It's mediocre. As you can see, that really covers almost everything. Now for the good news: I'm writing to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #67 because it falls into the first category. Now, let me say that it's about time that y'all remembered that the Kingpin was always a major Spidey villain. And it was nice to see him back on his 'home turf' again. It was also a treat to see the return of Boomerang. Not that it was strictly 'old home week.' Far from it. I find Peter's life is taking different directions of late. And, naturally, I approve. What I do enjoy about the latest trend in both this, and AMAZING, is that the integration of Pete's past exploits with his current ones is much smoother, and more enjoyable than it had been a few years ago.

So, keep hanging in there, throwing curves when I'm looking for the old snowball (yes, that was an official compliment!).

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, Ct 06880

Let us know if we even come close to striking out, John!

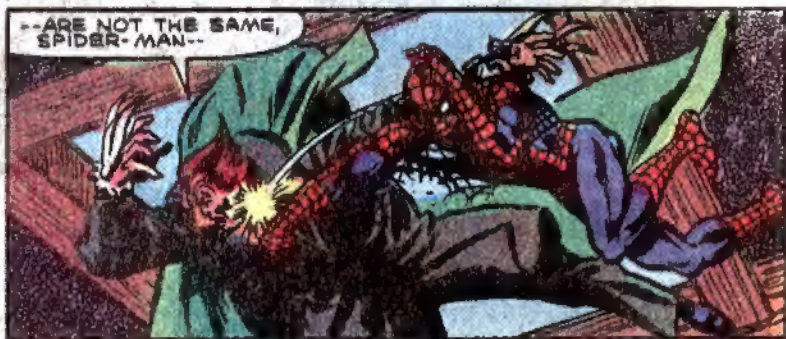
TOM DeFALCO

GHOST RIDER

ON SALE NOW!

**SAVAGE!
BRUTAL!**

**HE IS TRULY
THE MOST
TERRIFYING
CREATURE
OF ALL!**



I--I REALLY FLUSHED OUT/I LOST THEM BOTH!

